

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2408

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9489

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, PK, IN, US

SUBJ: DUBS MEETING WITH MUQEEM

SUMMARY: DEPUTY ASST SECY DUBS, IN MEETING WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY MUQEEM, HAD WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION INCLUDING PAK-INDIAN AND PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS AND US-PAK MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPUTY ASST SECY DUBS, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF RAPHEL, CALLED ON DEFENSE SECRETARY MUQEEM KHAN MORNING OCTOBER 14. DURING CORDIAL 45 MINUTE MEETING, THE SECRETARY NOTED HE HAD BEEN HEAD OF PAK TEAM NEGOTIATING BILATERAL AIR PROBLEMS WITH NDIA WHEN INDIAN TEAM VISITED ISLAMABAD. HE BELIEVES ESTABLISHMENT OF PAK-BANGLADESH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSWILL NOT GIVE INDIA ANY MORE LEVERAGE IN THE TALKS. HE SAID INDIA STILL HAS A GREATER NEED FOR OVERFLIGHT OF PAKISTAN THAN VICE VERSA.

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PAKISTAN CAN USE PRC ROUTE FOR ITS FLIGHTS TO THE EAST

WHILE INDIA HAS A GREATER NUMBER OF FLIGHTS DESTINED FOR THE WEST WHICH WOULD NORMALLY OVERFLY PAKISTAN. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE TALKS HAVE STILL NOT BEEN RESCHEDULED.

2. ON RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN, MUQEEM SAID THAT THE GOP HAD INFORMED THE GOA IN ADVANCE THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD BE CRITICIZED IN THE NAP TRIAL CASE, BUT IT COULD NOT BE AVOIDED. HE BELIEVES THE GOA NOW UNDERSTANDS THE TRIAL HAD TO GO TO THE SUPREME COURT UNDER PAK CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES, BUT IS STILL OBVIOUSLY DISPLEASED WITH BANNING OF NAP AND EXPLICIT CRITICISM OF AFGHANISTAN IN TRIAL.

3. WHILE DISCUSSING PAK RELATIONS WITH INDIA, MUQEEM REEMPHASIZED THAT PAKISTAN IS NOT A MAJOR POWER, HAS NO PRETENSIONS TO MILITARY PARITY WITH INDIA AND REALIZES THAT SUCH PARITY CANNOT BE ATTAINED. HE ADDED THAT RATHER THAN VIEW PAKISTAN AS A THREAT, THE GOI SHOULD SEE IT AS A BUFFER BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE SOVIET UNION AND AS SUCH, A STRONG, VIABLE PAKISTAN IS IN INDIAN INTERESTS.

4. DURING A DISCUSSION ON THE PLANS FOR THE PAKISTANI MILITARY TECHNICAL TEAM'S VISIT TO THE STATES, DUBS NOTED IT WOULD BE A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE TEAM MEMBERS TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC ISSUES SUCH AS VARIOUS WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING ALREADY AGREED UPON PROGRAMS AND TO FOSTER AN UNDERSTANDING OF OUR PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES. MUQEEM REPLIED THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WAS AWARE OF THE SPECIFIC TECHNICAL PURPOSES OF THE TEAM'S VISIT AND THAT GOP NEITHER EXPECTS NOR WANTS THE TEAM TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF POLICY OR SIGN FINAL CONTRACTS.

5. MUQEEM AND DUBS ALSO TALKED BRIEFLY ABOUT US AIR FORCE TEAM'S VISIT TO DISCUSS PAKISTAN'S AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. BOTH AGREED THAT THE TEAM'S MANDATE - TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC FACETS OF THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM RATHER THAN ENTIRE AIR DEFENSE PROGRAM - WAS ADVISABLE AND MOST USEFUL TO BOTH SIDES.
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